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LABOR ADVISER
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 873, June 2, 4 p.m.

Despite surface dullness of elections campaign has served to mark end of "independence syndicate" by reaffirming more strongly than ever close attachment Socialist and Catholic trade unions to PSB and PSC respectively.

As campaign began FGTB and CSC individually drew up social platform remarkably similar in inclusion of full employment plank, improved social security, forty hour week and completion of reforms of structure bill to require public auditing of operational plant data submitted by employers to works councils CSC platform added demand for increased family allowances in keeping with traditional emphasis on special family dispensations. FGTB thereafter "prevailed on" Socialist Party include trade union demands in party platform whereas CSC more cleverly is using implication ("vote for candidate who will support CSC platform") to obtain rank and file votes for PSC.

FGTB has openly supported PSC in past two elections but CSC electoral position though framed discreetly marks new developments (CSC president Cool explains Catholic unions semi-involvement in politics by all out FGTB campaign. At same time Embassy surmises that CSC counting heavily on PSC majority and if trade union support apparent before elections victors will probably be more favorably disposed towards CSC program

Socialist trade union leaders Smets and Major indicate to Embassy FGTB providing fifty percent funds for PSB campaign. No information available on CSC contributions to PSC but Embassy surmises percentage is smaller since PSC members probably in better financial position to foot campaign expenditures than PSB members.

DM:FAN

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